

Travis R. Fischer
Ped Center, Hugh-Spalding Visit
Tuesday, September 4, 2007

Observations

1. Painted ceiling tiles every approximately 10 feet. Some places had 2x2 squares, others were just one painted tile. Usually bright colors with animal motifs.
2. In some places, walls were painted bright (or at least trim) but was not consistent nor throughout the whole hospital.
3. Anti-germ hand washing foam was placed on walls in heavily travelled areas, like the elevator waiting lobby.
4. In several places there was patched, unpainted sheet rock on the walls either fixing damage or due to maintenance. Gave the hospital a rugged, uncompleted look.
5. In some areas of the clinic, there were plastic signs (for room notification, for example) that were incorrect, but instead of replacing the sign, they were just covered with a paper sign with the new information.

Suggestions

1. Instead of individual, unrelated tiles, do a motif throughout the whole ceiling, similar to Duncan Hall at Rice University (Links: http://compsci.rice.edu/hot.cfm?doc_id=4316, <http://www.cs.rice.edu/~keith/DuncanHall/ceiling.html>). According to the numbers on Rice's website, this could be done for approximately \$1.20 a square foot.
2. Texas Children's Hospital has each floor in the building painted with a different color motif. Thus, children and stressed parents do not have to remember "Floor 5" but "Blue" and they can get to the proper floor. With Hughes-Spalding's 3 floor design, the advantages of that would not be great. However, Hughes-Spalding's design sections off different divisions of the hospital, which we could color. So, for example the Primary Care Clinic could be Yellow, while the ED could be Red and the central waiting area could be in gradient shades of Orange, blending to Yellow as you approach the PCC, and blending to Red as you approach the ED.
3. RFID-based alert system to remind doctors to wash their hands before dealing with patients. An LED on the doctor's ID badge would turn red if they entered the "patient zone" without first entering the "sink zone" and turning on the sink. Acts as both a reminder to the doctor and as an external way for the patient/patient family to know whether the doctor's washed his hands or not.
4. Sketch-based controlled robotic toys in children's playroom. Allows children to be creative while interacting with technology.
5. LCD/OLED/LED based signs which can easily be updated without having to replace them or put unsightly paper signs up.

Conversations

1. I talked with Julia Jones about the number of floors in the hospital when I was thinking of how to bring in color coding to the floors/areas.
2. Julia Jones talked about her desire to have lots of innovative designs in the children's play room, which my sketch-based toys could be used in.

3. Julia Jones discussed the hand washing gels in the elevator lobbies and how that would be frowned upon by the upper management, if they notice them. The RFID cleaning system might remove the need for them.